

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 15347 151902Z

50

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-04 AEC-05 OMB-01 NIC-01 COME-00

LAB-01 SIL-01 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 SR-02 ORM-01 OCE-00

CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01 CU-02 (ISO) W

----- 126792

R 141430Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5233

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AXIMBASSY TEHRAN 1660

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 15347

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CE

SUBJECT: INDIA-SRI LANKA RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI A-193

SUMMARY: WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE TWO MAJOR ISSUES
BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA, RELATIONS HAVE BECOME IN-
CREASINGLY FOCUSED ON BROADER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
QUESTIONS, AND ON ECONOMIC TIES. INDIA RIGHT NOW IS MOST
INTERESTED IN THE CEYLONese POSITION ON PAKISTAN'S PROPOSAL
FOR A SOUTH ASIA NUCLEAR FREE ZONE. THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS
DISCUSSED IT TWO WEEKS AGO. AND THE INDIAN FOREIGN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 15347 151902Z

MINISTER WILL RAISE IT IN COLOMBO NOVEMBER 18. MEANWHILE,

INDO-CEYLONESE ECONOMIC TIES ARE DEVELOPING SLOWLY. SRI LANKA REPRESENTATIVES DO NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT TWO RECENT ANTI-CEYLONESE BOMBINGS IN MADRAS.

END SUMMARY.

1. THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS IN DELHI NOVEMBER 1 WAS THE FIRST SINCE THE ELIMINATION OF MAJOR DISPUTES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE PAST YEAR. AT THEIR LAST MEETING IN JANUARY 1974, THEY TIED UP A LOOSE END CONCERNING THE REPATRIATION GK PLANTATION WORKERS OF INDIAN ORIGIN FROM SRI LANKA. THAT REPATRIATION CONTINUES AT A SLOWLY INCREASING PACE (38,000 ESTIMATED FOR 1974), AND MINOR PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE APPARENTLY ARE RESOLVED AMICABLE. IN JULY 1974 THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREED TO A MEDIAN LINE WHICH GIVES THE UNINHABITED ISLET OF KACHCHATIVU TO SRI LANKA. THE OPPOSITION HAS CHALLENGED THIS IN THE DELHI AND MADRAS HIGH COURTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL WAS NECESSARY FOR THE CESSION OR TERRITORY. THE GOI ARGUES THAT THERE WAS NO CESSION, ONLY RESOLUTION OF A DISPUTED BOUNDARY. THE GOI COULD GET PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL IF NECESSARY, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD PREFER NOT TO DO SO.

2. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES: INDIA WANTS SUPPORT OR AT LEAST NEUTRALITY FROM ITS SMALLER NEIGHBORS ON REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO IT. IT IS WORRIED ABOUT NEPAL'S POSITION ON THE PAKISTANI PROPOSAL FOR A SOUTH ASIA NUCLEAR FREE ZONE. WHILE IT SEES SRI LANKA AS MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THE INDIAN POSITION, IT APPARENTLY ISN'T SURE OF SRI LANKA'S SUPPORT. (THE INDIAN PRESS NOVEMBER 13 IMPLIED THAT THE NEPALESE AND SRI LANKA IN THE UNGA SPEECHES NOVEMBER 11 HAD BEEN PRO-INDIAN OR AT LEAST HAD NOT SUPPORTED THE PAKISTANI POSITION, BUT IT DID NOT SUPPLY DETAILS). CEYLONESE DIPLOMATS HERE INDICATE THAT THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, THE PAKISTANI PROPOSAL AND THE SHAH'S IDEA OF A COMMUNITY OF NORTHERN INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL STATES HAVE MADE THE SITUATION VERY FLUID. USUN 4877 SUGGESTS THAT PAKISTAN AT LEAST SEES SOME PROSPECT FOR CEYLONESE SUPPORT FOR ITS LATEST DRAFT. INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN WILL VISIT COLOMBO NOVEMBER 18 TO 20 AND WILL, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 15347 151902Z

DISCUSS THE PAKISTANI PROPOSAL.

3. ECONOMIC TIES: INDIA WANTS TO HELP SRI LANKA THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER PROJECTS BASED IN INDIA'S PROXIMITY AND MARKET. INDIA HOPES TO COMPLETE A MICROWAVE LINK BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA IN TIME FOR THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO IN EARLY 1976. IT IS PREPARED TO HELP WITH INDUSTRIES WHICH WILL PRODUCE FOR SRI LANKA AND ALSO

EXPORT TO INDIA, THE FIRST OF WHICH WILL MANUFACTURE RUBBER PRODUCTS. FINALLY, IT WILL SUPPLY SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL INPUTS IN SPECIFIC FIELDS, THE FIRST BEING ANIMAL HUSBANDRY. ALL OF THIS IS PROCEEDING SLOWLY, BUT IS PROCEEDING. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT INDIA WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN SETTING UP A MINIMUM PRICE FOR TEA EXPORTS, IN CONCERT WITH SRI LANKA AND OTHER TEA PRODUCING NATIONS. (LONDON 14279).

4. EXPLOSIONS IN MADRAS. CEYLONESE DIPLOMATS SEEM SATISFIED WITH THE ACTION OF THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS FOLLOWING THE MIDDLE-OF-THE NIGHT BOMB EXPLOSIONS AT THE END OF OCTOBER, FIRST AT THE SRI LANKA DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION IN MADRAS AND THEN AT THE MADRAS BUDDHIST TEMPLE. THE FIRST EXPLOSION CAUSED ABOUT \$100 WORTH OF DAMAGE; THE SECOND PERHAPS MORE. THERE WERE NO INJURIES. A FLAG WITH THE NAME OF THE CEYLONESE TAMIL UNITED FRONT WAS FOUND AT THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION. CEYLONESE DIPLOMATS VIEW EXPLOSIONS AS AN EFFORT BY EITHER TAMILS REPATRIATED FROM SRI LANKA OR BY THE MILITANT WORLD TAMIL YOUTH FEDERATION TO GAIN ATTENTION. THEY SEE BOTH GROUPS AS SMALL AND LACKING IN SUPPORT IN TAMIL NADU. THEY NOTE THE STATEMENTS OF THE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU CONDEMNING THE EXPLOSIONS AND WARNING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TOLERATE VIOLENCE ON THE PART OF ANYONE TO SETTLE ISSUES. THEY ALSO NOTE THE INCREASED SECURITY PROVIDED FOR CEYLONESE OFFICIALS VISITING INDIA AND FOR CEYLONESE ESTABLISHMENTS IN INDIA SINCE THE INCIDENTS.
MOYNIHAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NUCLEAR FREE ZONES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE15347
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740331-0124
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741144/aaaabkpf.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI A-193
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIA-SRI LANKA RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005